

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:175

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2014

FEES OF LAWYERS

Sawaikar Shri Advocate Narendra Keshav

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms laid down to regulate the payment of legal fees to lawyers representing Union and the State Governments in the courts including the current rate of legal fee prescribed therefor;
- (b) the total amount of legal fee paid to the lawyers representing the Union Government during the last three years and the current year, court/case- wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to revise the aforesaid norms and make it mandatory for all Union Government Departments and States to set up a dedicated legal cell to represent their cases in the courts and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the other steps proposed to be taken by the Government to rationalize the quantum of fees paid to the lawyers?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Starred Question No. 175 for answer in the Lok Sabha on 04.12.2014.

(a) The Central Government by various Notifications and Office Memorandums has prescribed rates of fees for different categories of Central Government Counsels depending on the nature of work and the type of Court/Tribunal; i.e. Supreme Court, High Court, Subordinate Court, Administrative Tribunal, Arbitral Tribunal, etc. With regard to payment of fees to lawyers engaged for State Government, it is stated that State Governments make their own arrangement for defending cases out of their own funds .

(b) The following table shows the total amount of legal fee paid to the lawyers representing the Union Government by this Ministry during the last three years and the current year (upto 31.10.2014):

Year	Amount
(Figures in lakh of Rs.)	
2011-12	18,92.64
2012-13	21,21.20
2013-14	26,49.18
2014-15	16,01.10

In cases where services of Central Government Counsels is availed by other Departments./Ministries case-wise fees is paid to them by the concerned Departments/Ministries who engage them as per the fee prescribed by this Department. However, details are not available with this Ministry. With regard to legal fee paid to the lawyers engaged by the State Government, court/case-wise, no such data is available with this Ministry.

(c) &(d) At present, this Ministry is considering revision of fee payable to the Central Government Counsels/lawyers for all Union Government /Departments. The proposal is yet to be finalized in consultation with other Ministries. However, there is no proposal to set up a dedicated legal cell to represent the cases of the Central Government in the Courts. With regard to State Government no such details are available with this Ministry.